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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,028	10/16/2003	Lenora K. Levin	P-B066	9106

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HUNG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2636

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,028

Applicant(s)

LEVIN, LENORA K.

Examiner

Hung T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains more than 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Evans (U.S. 5,614,884).

Regarding claim 1, Evans teaches a vehicle turn signal device [fig.1,6, col.2, lines 28-34 and col.8, lines 13-39] comprising:

- a human operated signal initiation device (36,16) [fig.1,6, col.2, lines 28-34, col.7, lines 62-65 and col.8, lines 13-39];
- a flasher (76) is connected to light indicators for flashing (40,42,52-62) [figs.1-2,5-6, col.1, lines 40-52, col.2, lines 39-49 and col.4, lines 11-22, col.7, lines 40-48 and col.8, lines 24-39];

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- at least a delay device / timers (88-94) communicate with the flasher and circuit of turn signal for flashing short duration (15 second) and long duration (70 second) of turn signals as the driver operator activated the control stalk (36,160) [figs.1-2, 5-6, col.7, lines 40-48, col.7, lines 62-67 and col.8, lines 13-39].

Regarding claims 2-3, Evans teaches the delay device / timers (88-94) communicate with the flasher and circuit of turn signal for flashing short duration (15 second) and long duration (70 second) of turn signals as the driver operator activated the control stalk (36,160) [figs.1-2, 5-6, col.7, lines 40-48, col.7, lines 62-67 and col.8, lines 13-39].

Regarding claim 8, Evans teaches a vehicle turn signal device [fig.1,6, col.2, lines 28-34 and col.8, lines 13-39] comprising:

- a human operated signal initiation device (36,16) [fig.1,6, col.2, lines 28-34, col.7, lines 62-65 and col.8, lines 13-39];
- a flasher (76) is connected to light indicators for flashing (40,42,52-62) [figs.1-2,5-6, col.1, lines 40-52, col.2, lines 39-49 and col.4, lines 11-22, col.7, lines 40-48 and col.8, lines 24-39];
- at least a delay device / timers (88-94) communicate with the flasher and circuit of turn signal for flashing short duration (15 second) and long duration (70 second) of turn signals as the driver operator activated the control stalk (36,160) [figs.1-2, 5-6, col.7, lines 40-48, col.7, lines 62-67 and col.8, lines 13-39].

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Regarding claims 9-10, Evans teaches the delay device / timers (88-94) communicate with the flasher and circuit of turn signal for flashing short duration (15 second) and long duration (70 second) of turn signals as the driver operator activated the control stalk (36,160) [figs. 1-2, 5-6, col.7, lines 40-48, col.7, lines 62-67 and col.8, lines 13-39].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4 & 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans (U.S. 5,614,884) in view of Boxer (U.S. 5,731,755).

Regarding claims 4 and 11, The reference of Evans does not specifically mention the circuit causes the vehicle turn signal to operate in a series of light signal and delays as claimed by the applicant.

However, Evans does teach that the flasher (76) is connected to light indicators for flashing (40,42,52-62) [figs. 1-2, 5-6, col.1, lines 40-52, col.2, lines 39-49 and col.4, lines 11-22, col.7, lines 40-48 and col.8, lines 24-39]; and

the delay device / timers (88-94) communicate with the flasher (76) and circuit of turn signal for flashing short duration (15 second) and long duration (70 second) of turn signals as the driver

operator activated the control stalk (36,160) [figs.1-2, 5-6, col.7, lines 40-48, col.7, lines 62-67 and col.8, lines 13-39].

Furthermore, Boxer teaches vehicular U-turn indicator having a series of sequentially illuminated lights (12,14,32A) which can be activated by a driver operator as providing a clear indication signal to the on coming traffic and pedestrians [figs.1,3, col.3, lines 13-32, col.4, lines 9-14 and abstract].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the teaching of Boxer includes a feature of series of light signal and delays in the system of Evans to provide a clear indication signal and more safety to the on coming traffic and pedestrians.

6. Claims 5, 7 & 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans (U.S. 5,614,884) in view of Tan (U.S. 6,043,740).

Regarding claims 5, 7 and 12, The reference of Evans does not specifically mention the circuit causes the vehicle turn signal to operate in a repeat series of two short light signals followed by one long light signal, with short delays after the short light signals and long delay after the long light signal as claimed by the applicant.

However, Evans does teach that the flasher (76) is connected to light indicators for flashing (40,42,52-62) [figs.1-2,5-6, col.1, lines 40-52, col.2, lines 39-49 and col.4, lines 11-22, col.7, lines 40-48 and col.8, lines 24-39]; and

the delay device / timers (88-94) communicate with the flasher (76) and circuit of turn signal for flashing short duration (15 second) and long duration (70 second) of turn signals as the driver operator activated the control stalk (36,160) [figs.1-2, 5-6, col.7, lines 40-48, col.7, lines 62-67 and col.8, lines 13-39].

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Furthermore, Tan teaches vehicle signaling apparatus comprises a circuit to operate the light signals which is shown in fig.2 as waveform shows a first of two pulses followed by a short delay, less than 3 seconds, followed by a second pulse train of four pulses, followed by a long delay [fig.2 ,col.1, line 56 to col.2, lines 6].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have the teaching of Tan in the system of Evans for providing the same function as desired & to provide a clear indication signal and more safety to the on coming traffic and pedestrians.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Fuller (U.S. 5,523,738) Turn indicator safety augmentor.
- Gerrans et al. (U.S. 5,414,407) Turn signal monitor circuit.
- Berryhill (U.S. 5,790,017) Vehicle turn signal control system and method.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2982. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hofsass, Jeffery can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

HUNG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hung Nguyen".

Examiner: Hung T. Nguyen

Date: June. 10, 2005